MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIM 7

7. (Amended) An apparatus for continuously producing baked long doctor materials comprising:

a plurality of pinch rollers for continuously forwardly straightening out long doctor materials plated [by the method according to claim 1 or claim 2 from the] from a take-up reel by a method comprising a degreasing step, rinsing step, acid immersion, rinsing step, electroless ceramic composite nickel plating step, plating solution collection step, rinsing step, and drving step between a first step of supplying continuously a long doctor blade base material held on a material reel spirally while the blade surface is maintained in a horizontal direction with respect to the surface of the solution for uniformly plating the long doctor blade material wherein a higher concentration of a ceramic fine powder is deposited on a top surface of the long doctor blade material than a concentration of the ceramic fine powder deposited on the lower surface of the long doctor blade material, and a final step of taking up continuously the blade base material on the corresponding take-up reel while the blade base material is cramped by a plurality of pinch rolls; and

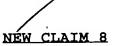
a straightening furnace for baking through which the straightened plated blades pass.

CLEAN VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIM 7

7. (Amended) An apparatus for continuously producing baked long doctor materials comprising:

a plurality of pinch rollers for continuously forwardly straightening out long doctor materials plated from a take-up reel by a method comprising a degreasing step, rinsing step, acid \$\frac{1}{2}\$ immersion, rinsing step, electroless ceramic composite nickel ψ plating step, plating solution collection step, rinsing step, and γ doctor blade base material held on a material reel spirally while $^{\zeta}$ the blade surface is maintained in a horizontal direction with $||\hat{V}||$ respect to the surface of the solution for uniformly plating the long doctor blade material wherein a higher concentration of a, Co ceramic fine powder is deposited on a top surface of the long () doctor blade material than a concentration of the ceramic fine 14 powder deposited on the lower surface of the long doctor blade $\sqrt{\ }$ material, and a final step of taking up continuously the blade base material on the corresponding take-up reel while the blade $^{()}$ base material is cramped by a plurality of pinch rolls; and

a straightening furnace for baking through which the straightened plated blades pass.



8. An apparatus for continuously producing baked long doctor materials comprising:

a plurality of pinch rollers for continuously forwardly straightening out long doctor materials plated from a take-up reel by a method comprising a degreasing step, rinsing step, acid immersion, rinsing step; electroless ceramic composite nickel plating step, plating solution collection step, rinsing step, and $\!\!\!/$ drying step between a first step of supplying continuously a v plurality of long doctor blade base materials held on a plurality of material reels spirally while the blade surfaces are $ackslash \mathbb{Q}$ maintained in a horizontal direction with respect to the surfaceVof the solution and a predetermined interval therebetween is $\backslash \sim$ maintained for uniformly plating the plurality of long doctor $\{\cdot\}$ blade materials wherein a higher concentration of a ceramic fine powder is deposited on a top surface of each of the plurality of long doctor blade materials than a concentration of the ceramic | fine powder deposited on the lower surface of each of the plurality of long doctor blade materials, and a final step of 13 taking up continuously the plurality of doctor blade base materials on a plurality of corresponding take-up reels while the \mathcal{U}^2 plurality of blade base materials are cramped by a plurality of pinch rolls; and

a straightening furnace for baking through which the straightened plated blades pass.